

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden, Sector 16, Chandigarh.

Ph: 0172-2864113, Helpline No. 0172-2864100

Email: - psic22@punjabmail.gov.in

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Appellant

Sh. Baldev Singh (84377-95286)

S/o Shri Hardit Singh,
R/o Village Ladhuka,
Tehsil and District Fazilka.

Versus

Show-Cause

Public Information Officer (By Name)

(Regd. Post) O/o The BDPO, Block Jalalabad.

Encl. RTI application

First Appellate Authority

(Regd. Post) O/o BDPO, Block Jalalabad.

Respondent

Appeal Case No.: 541 of 2021

Through CISCO WEBEX

Present: Appellant: Sh. Baldev Singh (M: 84377-95286) is present through webex.

Respondent: Absent.

ORDER:

1. This case may be read with the reference of the previous order dated 02.08.2022.
2. In today's hearing, appellant states that he has received incomplete information comprising of 58 Pages on 15.06.2020
3. None is present from the Respondent / PIO in spite being registered order issued to him by the Commission.
4. After perusal of the file shows that, a letter number 2446 dated 16.09.2022 has been received in the Commission vide diary no. 22864 dated 07.10.2022 and an email dated 18.09.2022 through which BDPO, Jalalabad assigned duty to Shri Gurjant Singh, Panchayat Secretary -cum- PIO Gram Panchayat, Ladhuka to supply the information to the Appellant and to attend today's hearing, but he fails to do so.
5. Commission takes a serious view of the casual approach of the Respondent / PIO, as information is still no supplied and today nobody appears from the department.
6. In view of the foregoing, respondent PIO, O/o BDPO, Block Jalalabad is directed to Show Cause in writing or through affidavit under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, as to why penalty be not imposed upon him for willful delay/ denial of the information to the RTI applicant and why the compensation be not awarded to the complainant under Section 19 (8)(b) of the Act for detriment suffered.
7. In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso, thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may note that in case he does not file his submission and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceedings against him ex-parte.
8. A copy of this order be also sent to the First Appellate Authority i.e. the Secretary, RTA, Amritsar through registered post for the compliance of this order and to look into the matter as RTI Act, 2005 came into existence to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, not for the harassment of the public.

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9. Both the parties are directed to represent this case on the next date of hearing positively, failing which case will be decided in their absence.
10. **Matter is adjourned for further hearing on 11.01.2023 at 11:00 A.M. through CISCO WEBEX.** Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Steps to use CISCO WEBEX: Install CISCO Webex->Click on Join Meeting->Enter Meeting Number 1582933632.

Dated: 11.10.2022

(Anumit Singh Sodhi)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab